

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215244

USOECD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM IT, RO

SUBJECT: ITALIAN INTEGRATED CIRCUITRY TO ROMANIA
(COCOM DOC (77)140)

REFERENCE: (A) ROME 13913 (B) PARIS 20520
(ALL NOTAL)

1. REQUEST USDEL COCOM INFORM ITALIAN DEL AND EMBASSY
ROME INFORM ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT
TECHNICIANS REVIEWING REVISED ITALIAN CASE (INCLUDING
CHANGES DESCRIBED REF B) IDENTIFY TWO AREAS OF CONCERN:
(A) EQUIPMENT: ITALIAN AGREEMENT TO REMOVE PRODUCTION
TECHNOLOGY (JUDGED EXTREMELY SENSITIVE) AND DYNAMIC
TEST EQUIPMENT HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY EASED CONCERNS IN
THIS AREA. PRIOR TO PASSING FINAL JUDGEMENT, HOWEVER,
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TECHNICIANS WISH TO REVIEW BROCHURES SINCE TECHNICIANS
ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY EXACT CONTENT OF EQUIPMENT
ITALIANS PROPOSE TO SHIP. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE REQUEST
FOR BROCHURES CAME LATE IN THE REVIEW OF THE CASE;
NEVERTHELESS, RECEIPT OF THE BROCHURES WOULD AT
LEAST REMOVE THE POSSIBILITY OF A US OBJECTION BASED
SIMPLY ON INADEQUATE INFORMATION. MAJOR CONCERN IS

POSSIBILITY THAT TEST EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE COMPUTER
(OR MICROPROCESSOR) CONTROLLED.

(B) INTEGRATED CIRCUITS (ICS): MAJOR STICKING POINT
APPEARS TO BE NATURE OF ICS TO BE TRANSFERRED. PRE-
PROGRAMMING READ-ONLY MEMORIES REDUCES CONCERNS RE THESE
ICS. HOWEVER, REMANING ICS (RANDOM-ACCESS MEMORIES,
CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT, SHIFT REGISTERS), WHICH CAN NOT
BE PREPROGRAMMED, ARE BELIEVED TO BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO
(A) UNAUTHORIZED DIVERSION (NUMBER OF ICS TO BE SHIPPED
RAISES CONCERNS THAT ITALIAN-PROPOSED END USE CHECKS
WILL BE INSUFFICIENT) AND (B) HYBRIDIZATION
(ASSEMBLY OF INDIVIDUAL ICS INTO LARGER, AND MORE
POWERFUL, UNITS). FURTHER, TECHNICIANS ARE UNABLE TO
SQUARE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR M-380 SERIES MICRO-
PROCESSOR CONTAINED PARA 4 WITH DESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE
HERE. TECHNICAL LITERATURE MORE FULLY EXPLAINING
STATEMENTS IN PARA 4 WOULD HELP CONSIDERATION. DEFENSE
AND COMMERCE TECHNICIANS DISPUTE ITALIAN CLAIMS
THAT P-MOS IS OBSOLETE; FORMER POINT OUT THAT MOS
CIRCUITRY HAS IMPORTANT STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS IN SUCH
AREAS AS ELECTRONIC WARFARE, INTRUSION DETECTION,
ARTILLERY FIRE CONTROL, NAVIGATION CONTROL, WEAPON
LOCATING SYSTEMS, MISSILE GUIDANCE SYSTEMS,
SECURE COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA COMMUNICATION, CONTROL
AND SWITCHING.

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2. CASE WAS REFERRED TO NSC TO RESOLVE INTERAGENCY
DIFFERENCES PRIOR TO RECEIPT REF(B). ON BASIS OF
INFORMATION THEN AVAILABLE, NEGATIVE DECISION APPEARED
LIKELY. WE NOTE ITALIAN STATEMENT THAT REVISED ITALIAN
PROPOSAL REPRESENTED MINIMUM LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY
ACCEPTABLE UNDER PRESENT CONTRACT WITH ROMANIAN
FIRM (THIS POINT ALSO MADE IN LETTER FROM ITALIAN
EMBASSY). SUCH AN ATTITUDE MAY LEAD TO AN UNNECESSARY US
OBJECTION. WE SUGGEST ITALIANS STUDY WAYS IN WHICH
THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL COULD BE MODIFIED TO BRING
IT MORE IN LINE WITH THE US EXPORTS TO BULGARIA OF US
INTEGRATED CIRCUITS FOR DESK CALCULATORS (COCOM DOCS
(72)825; (72)2171; (74)996; (75)1606; AND (77)41), E.G.
SHIPPING ENCAPSULATED SETS OF COMPLETELY-DEDICATED
INTEGRATED CIRCUITS.

3. WE ARE CONSIDERING SEEKING RESOLUTION OF THIS CASE
IN CONTEXT OF POLICY OF SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR
ROMANIA. HOWEVER, EVEN WERE THIS APPROACH TO BE
USED, PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL WOULD BE ENHANCED BY
AMENDMENTS ALONG LINES OF US-BULGARIAN CASES AND BY
RECEIPT OF BROCHURES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED - FOR USDEL COCOM AND ROME: WE
WOULD APPRECIATE EVALUATION(A) WHETHER STATE SHOULD
PRESS FOR A DEFINITIVE US POSITION BASED ON REF B,
I.E. WITHOUT WAITING FOR BROCHURES OR AMENDMENTS ON ICS,
AND
B) WHETHER AND; IF SO, HOW US OBJECTION OR CONTINUED
US DELAY WOULD AFFECT US-ITALY RELATIONS IN ANY OTHER
MATTER. FOR BUCHAREST: EMBASSY VIEWS REQUESTED ON
EXTENT OF RISK OF DIVERSION OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS
FROM THIS CASE TO MILITARY PURPOSES FOR WHICH
THEY ARE ALSO SUITED (A) THROUGH RE-EXPORT TO THE
USSR OR (B) IN ROMANIA. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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